

Practitioner's Docket No. MPI00-344P1RRCEMUSSN: 09/945,326

## IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

## STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

1-63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently Amended): A method for identifying a candidate compound which binds to a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
- b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-3439; and
- c) a polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3; wherein the compound is capable of modulating cellular growth or proliferation of cancer cells in vitro, the method comprising:
  - i) contacting a sample comprising the polypeptide with a test compound under conditions suitable for binding;
  - ii) detecting binding of the test compound to the polypeptide to identify a test compound that binds to the polypeptide;
  - iii) incubating the test compound which binds to the polypeptide with a sample comprising a cancer cells; and
  - iv) determining whether the test compound modulates cellular growth or proliferation of the cancer cells;thereby identifying a candidate compound capable of modulating cellular growth or proliferation of cancer cells in vitro.

65. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 64, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

66. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 64, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

67. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 64, wherein the polypeptide further comprises heterologous sequences.

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68. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 64, wherein the sample is an isolated polypeptide, ~~a membrane-bound form of an isolated polypeptide or a cell comprising the polypeptide.~~

69. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 68, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

70. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 64, wherein the compound is a small molecule.

71. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 64 wherein the cancer cells are selected from the group consisting of lung cancer cells, breast cancer cells, ovarian cancer cells and colon cancer cells.

72. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 64, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

- a) direct detecting of test compound/polypeptide binding;
- b) a competition binding assay;
- c) an immunoassay; and
- d) a yeast two-hybrid assay.

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